BRETT JAGGER

NIH-Cambridge Scholar 2008

Degrees: Graceland University, B.S., Biology, 2004

Research Interests: Virology

Brett Jagger graduated *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 grade point average from Graceland University (Lamoni, IA) in 2004. While at Graceland, he conducted research into environmental estrogen mimicry and received his department's Graybill Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement, as well as the President's Scholarship. He was also awarded a fellowship in the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) program at the University of Tulsa, where he investigated the biodiversity of *Apis mellifera* (the honeybee) in Asia minor. His NSF-REU research supported the hypothesis that migratory commercial beekeeping is impacting local species genetic diversity. Following his undergraduate education, he matriculated at the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) as a George T. Lukemeyer Scholarship recipient, and entered the lab of Dr. Raymond Konger to research the growth stimulatory effects of prostaglandin E2 on human keratinocytes. During Brett's junior year, he was nominated by IUSM faculty for membership in AΩA, the medical honor society, for outstanding performance in basic science and clinical coursework. The following year, he was awarded a fellowship with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Research Scholars Program at the National Institutes of Health. While working at NIH he began research into pandemic influenza in the lab of Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger, where he continues his doctoral research. "Dr. Taubenberger's recovery and sequencing of the 1918 pandemic virus genome continues to inspire and inform research into the forces underlying the emergence of new influenza viruses." Outside of the lab, Brett is an avid runner, having completed the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. He is also fond of classical music, serving as principal trumpet from 2000-2004 in the Graceland University Symphony Orchestra. Brett is looking forward to applying basic discoveries to improving influenza surveillance, vaccine design, and therapeutics as he develops his knowledge and skills as a physician scientist.